

HMAS *DIAMANTINA*



HMAS *Diamantina* was a River Class Frigate built by Walkers Ltd. in Maryborough Queensland. It was launched into the Mary River on April 6, 1944, by Mrs. Kathleen Riordan, the wife of William Riordan, Chairman of Committees of the House of Representatives, later Minister for the Navy. It was commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy by its first Captain Lieutenant Commander M.G. Rose in Hervey Bay on 27 April 1945.

It served the Royal Australian Navy as a warship in 1945-46, and as an Oceanographic Research ship from 1959 to 1980. Upon decommissioning it was gifted to the Queensland Maritime Museum on August 27, 1980.

WORLD WAR II OPERATIONS



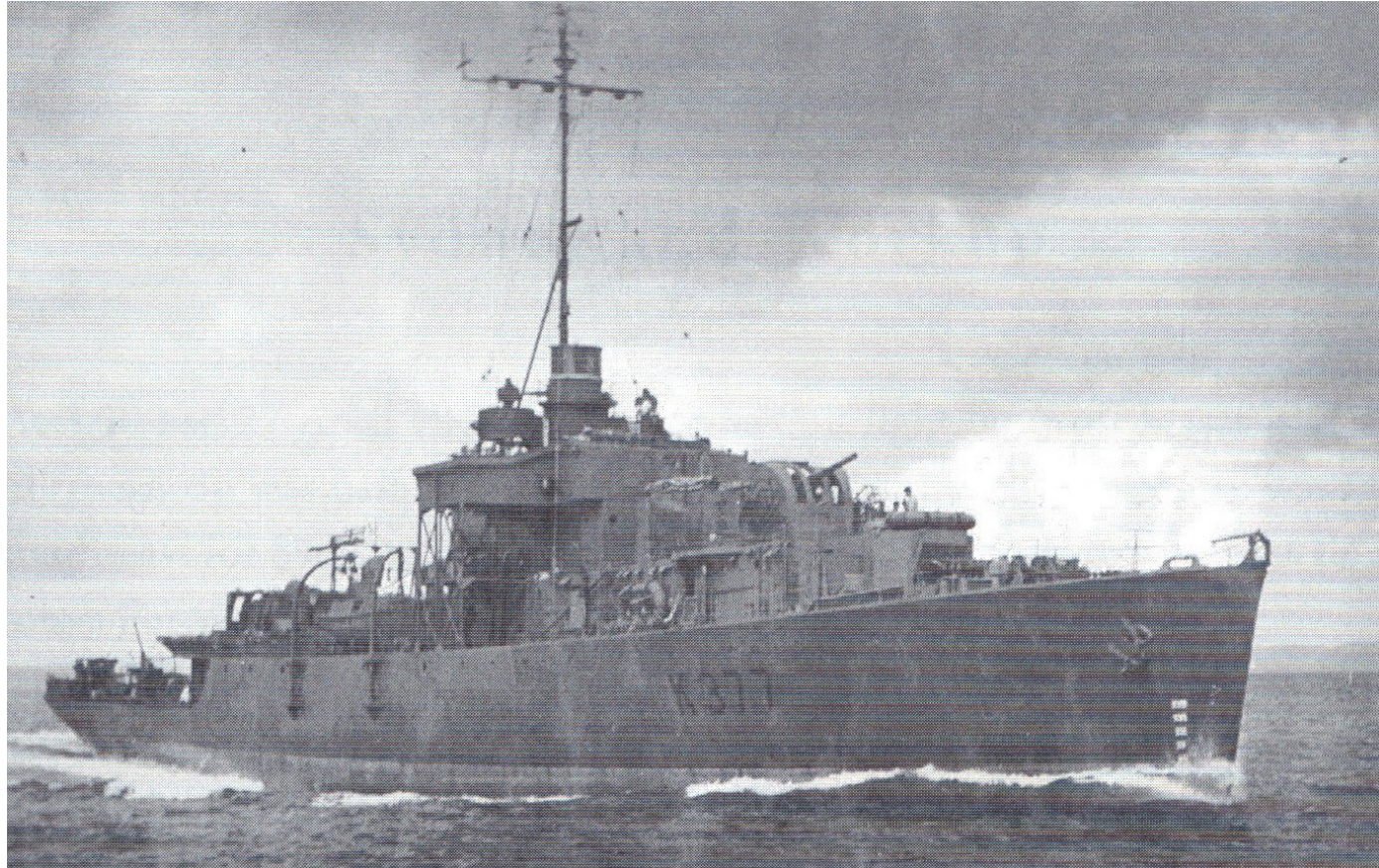
The Ocean Island surrender is signed onboard HMAS *Diamantina*

OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

HMAS *Diamantina* was commissioned as the Royal Australian Navy's first dedicated oceanographic research vessel on June 22, 1959. One of the objectives of the RAN was to assist in the design selection and tactical use of the RAN'S submarine warfare equipment.

WALKERS LTD

Walkers Ltd. started as a small foundry in Ballarat, Victoria in 1864. It moved to Queensland in 1868 where it became a large firm building sugar mill machinery, mining equipment and locomotives. The shipyard was established in 1877 to build dredging plant for Queensland Government. The yard closed in 1923 but reopened at the outbreak of World War II building seven (7) Australian Minesweepers and three (3) River class Frigates.



Trials in Hervey Bay, April 1945, with *Hedgehog* unconverted on the foredeck (Walkers)

HMAS *Diamantina* was involved in action against the Japanese in the Solomon Islands in July 1945 at Sohana Island and Taiof Island. It was the senior ship of eight (8) RAN vessels for the Bougainville Campaign providing fire support to Australian Army Units operating ashore.

Diamantina transported officers of the Japanese Bougainville commanders for the surrender ceremony at Torokina, and the ships quarter deck was the site for surrender ceremonies at Nauru and Ocean Island.

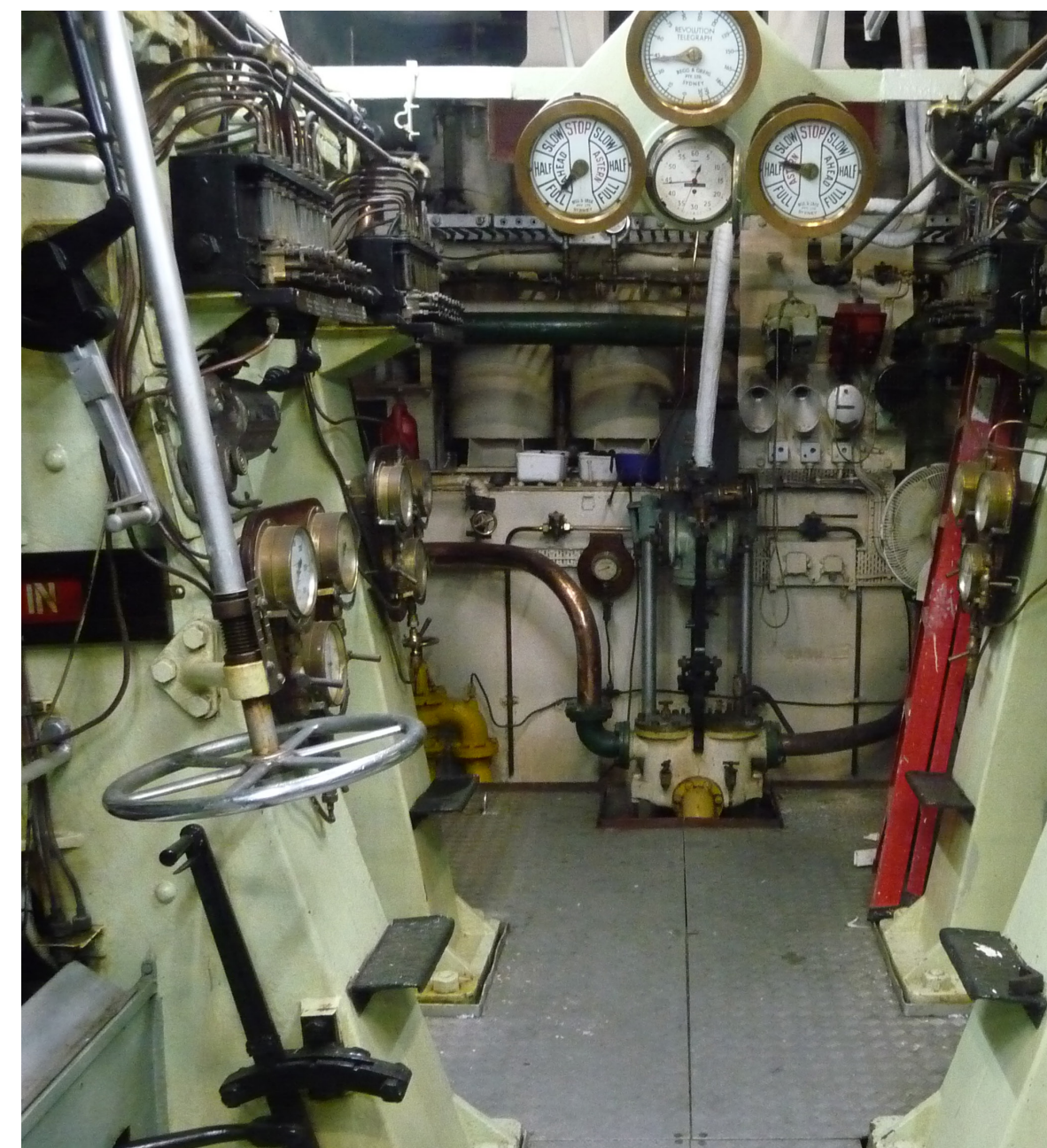
The ship was awarded the Battle Honour "Pacific 1941-45."



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Displacement:	1489 tons (standard) 2120 tons (full load)
Length:	301' 6" (91.36m)
Beam:	36' 6" (11.06m)
Draught:	12' 6" (3.6m)
Speed:	20 knots
Crew:	140
Propulsion Machinery:	2x4 Cylinder Triple Expansion Engine of 2750HP each Twin Screw

Armament:	
Guns:	2 x 4 inch guns 2 x 40mm Bofors 3 x 40mm Oerlikon 1 x Hedgehog 4 Depth Charge Throwers 2 Depth Charge Rails 50 Depth Charges
Other Armament:	



Engine Room

Photo: Paul Coghlan

LAST SURVIVOR

"Too bloody good for razor blades" in the words of former Commander James Buchanan, "fine and rare working example of a design which was the pinnacle of development of steam engines at sea."



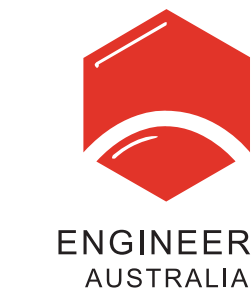
The former HMAS *Diamantina* as a museum ship in Brisbane, Queensland (www.maritimemuseum.com.au)

COMMANDERS

LCDR Maurice George ROSE, RANVR	27.04.1945 - 22.11.1945
LCDR Philip Jack SULLIVAN, RANR (S)	22.11.1945 - 07.07.1946
LCDR Bruce Dudley GORDON, RAN	22.06.1959 - 16.03.1960
LCDR George McCallum JUDE, RAN	16.03.1960 - 07.09.1961
LCDR John Gostyk YULE, RAN	07.09.1961 - 07.06.1963
LCDR Richard Bradford NUNN, RAN	07.06.1963 - 18.01.1964
LCDR Peter Edwin Mansfield HOLLOWAY, RAN	18.01.1964 - 08.06.1965
LCDR Peter George DUNCAN, RAN	08.06.1965 - 28.12.1966
LCDR Murray WARD, RAN	28.12.1966 - 06.01.1969
LCDR James Ellis BUCHANAN, RAN	06.01.1969 - 16.11.1970
LCDR Michael William VARLEY, RAN	16.11.1970 - 22.07.1972
LCDR Donald Montgomerie DAVIDSON, RAN	22.07.1972 - 03.09.1974
LCDR Philip Graham BROOK, RAN	03.09.1974 - 14.12.1976
LCDR Peter John COOKE RUSSELL, RAN	14.12.1976 - 27.10.1978
LCDR Robert James BURNS, GM, RAN	27.10.1978 - 14.01.1980
LCDR Rimaudas Adolfas DICIUNAS, RAN	14.01.1980 - 29.02.1980

RECOGNITION

Engineers Australia awarded HMAS *Diamantina* an Engineering Heritage National Marker in 2020.



Officers, October 1945 (QMM Collection)
Back Row (L to R): Lts J. Church (Asdic), W. Reid (Navigator), Sub-Lt I. Parkin (Capt's Secretary), Lts L. Finlay-Jones (Surgeon), W. McKendrick (Gunnery).
Front Row (L to R): Lt C. Younger (First Lt), LCDR M. Rose (Captain), LCDR K. Bull (Engineer).
Absent: Lt R. Burgess (Supply)

